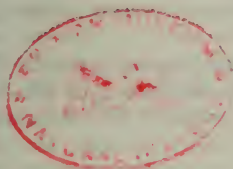


BULLETIN
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The six hundred and ninth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 17th September, 1963.

Chairman: Major-General C. B. Wainwright

Members present, 22; Guests 6; Honorary Associates (Overseas) 2; Members of the B.O.U. 4. Total 34.

Mr. M. D. England addressed the meeting on a visit that he and others made to an undisclosed part of Portugal.

His talk was illustrated with coloured photographs, including some of the Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), a species that the party particularly hoped, but scarcely expected to find.

An aberrant *Pycnonotus* from Johannesburg, South Africa

by MILES B. MARKUS

Received 2nd May, 1963

On 24th July 1962 an abnormal adult male bulbul was caught at Bryanston, Johannesburg. According to plumage it was an example of *Pycnonotus barbatus layardi* Gurney (*Pycnonotus capensis layardi* of some authors) which inhabits the locality, but exhibited an irregularity of the eye-wattles. The normal diagnostic eye-wattle colour of *P. b. layardi* is black, but these were lemon-yellow, resembling those of two birds which were collected north-east of Potchefstroom in the Western Transvaal (Markus¹); their eye-wattles were a light brownish-khaki, becoming yellowish towards the inside, those of one bird being slightly darker than those of the other. Attention was recently drawn to the Johannesburg specimen elsewhere (Markus²).

This bird was in non-breeding condition with testes *circa* 1.25 mm. in diameter, a wing measurement of 103.5 mm., a tarsus of 19.5 mm. and the culmen 22 mm. in length, taken from the forehead. Iris brown; the irides of the Western Transvaal bulbuls referred to in the previous paragraph were reddish-brown. In view of the fact that Johannesburg lies within and not on the periphery of the range of *P. b. layardi*, the specimen under discussion would not appear to be an intergrade, as such, between *P. b. layardi* and the very closely allied red eye-wattled *Pycnonotus nigricans* (Vieillot) and is therefore of particular interest. *P. nigricans* replaces *P. b. layardi* approximately 80 miles to the north-west and is also considered conspecific with white eye-wattled *Pycnonotus capensis* (Linnaeus) by some specialists. There is nothing to indicate that the abnormal specimen was at any time a caged bird, nor does there appear to be any reason to suspect that it may have wandered from another area as *P. b. layardi* in